



Montgomery County Council

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

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The Montgomery County Council today approved \$139,890 to fund improvements to services for domestic violence victims and enhance prosecution of domestic abuse cases in Montgomery County.

The money will fund a victim assistance pilot program in the Wheaton-Glenmont police district, a domestic violence manager in the State's Attorney's Family Violence unit, an additional domestic violence prosecutor and legal assistant in the State's Attorney's office, and a domestic violence evidence coordinator for the Montgomery County police department. The county executive also supports this funding.

"This is a very important initiative," said Councilmember Phil Andrews, chair of the Council's Public Safety Committee. "The work group did a good job in identifying specific ways to close gaps in our services to victims of domestic violence. This funding means more help for victims of domestic violence and for prosecuting abusers."

This is first stage of the plan recommended by the domestic violence Interim Work Group. The Council formed the work group and charged it with figuring out how to implement the following four recommendations in the Office of Legislative Oversight's report *Improving the Response to Domestic Violence in Montgomery County*:

1. Make it possible to obtain emergency protective orders outside of regular court hours;
2. Establish an interagency Emergency Response Team to identify and intervene in high-risk domestic violence cases;
3. Improve services and assistance for victims of domestic violence and their children; and
4. Strengthen investigation and prosecution of misdemeanor domestic violence cases, and improve sentencing and supervision options.

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